

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Takahiro Shibata  
Appl. No. : --  
Filed : Concurrently herewith  
For : A CONNECTOR AND A METHOD OF ASSEMBLING IT

MS Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

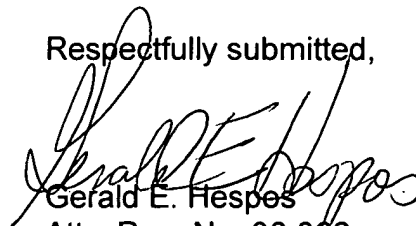
Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement includes a copy of Form PTO-1449 that identifies one Japanese reference and one U.S. patents. A copy of the Japanese reference is attached as well. The Japanese reference includes a connector with an inertial locking mechanism. Inertial locking mechanisms are described in paragraphs 0002 and 0003 of the subject application in the context of a differently configured connector as illustrated in FIG. 9 of the subject application.

U.S. Patent No. 6,416,346 is assigned to the assignee of the subject invention and relates to a connector with grooves and ribs to prevent the connector housings from being fit together in a misaligned manner.

The Examiner is requested to consider these references during the examination and to make the references of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 19, 2003

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number (Optional)

FP03-161US

Application Number

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Applicant(s)

Takahiro Shibata

Filing Date

Concurrently herewith

Group Art Unit

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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE   | NAME     | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|-----|-----------------|--------|----------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
|                      |     | 6,416,346       | 7-2002 | Nakamura |       |          |                               |
|                      |     |                 |        |          |       |          |                               |
|                      |     |                 |        |          |       |          |                               |
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|                      |     |                 |        |          |       |          |                               |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | Translation |    |
|--|-----|-----------------|------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|  |     |                 |      |         |       |          | YES         | NO |
|  |     | 2002-25696      | 2002 | Japan   |       |          |             | ✓  |
|  |     |                 |      |         |       |          |             |    |
|  |     |                 |      |         |       |          |             |    |
|  |     |                 |      |         |       |          |             |    |
|  |     |                 |      |         |       |          |             |    |

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.